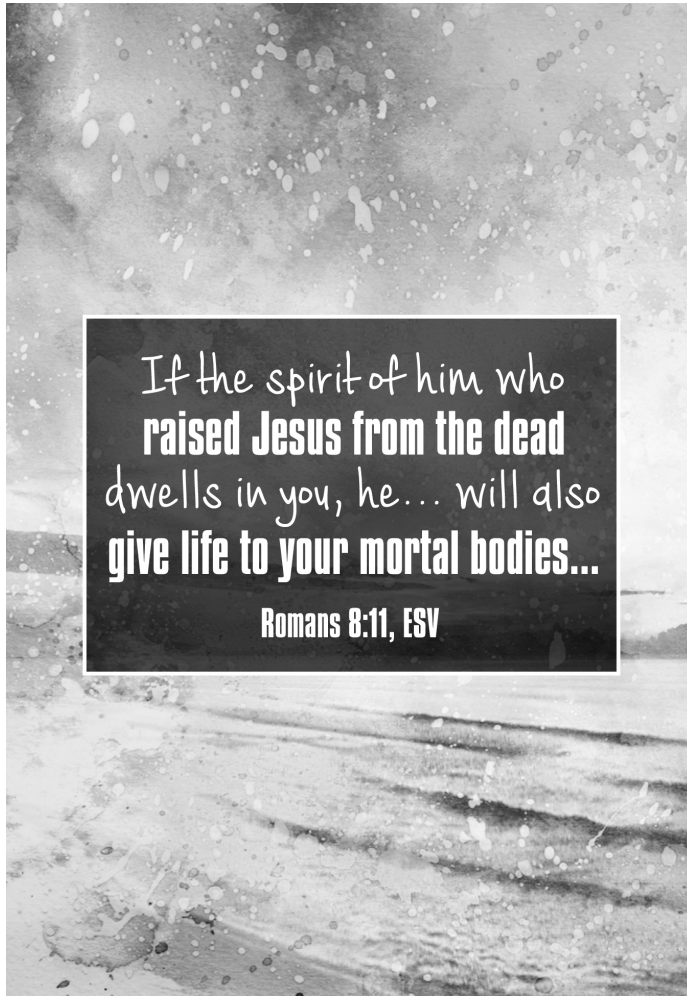


WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



**GOD PROVIDES
LIFE FOR THE DEAD**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023



Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

Service Notes For This Sunday



The author and poet George Eliot once wrote, "Our dead are never dead to us, until we have forgotten them." The Roman philosopher Cicero said much the same. He wrote, "The life of the dead is placed in the memory of the living." What second rate comfort! But that is the best the unbelieving world can offer—the sappy sentiment that our dead loved ones somehow "live on" in our memories. It is a sad way to attempt to cope as you walk through the cemetery.

Jesus provides a better solution to death. He promises life. One day Jesus will give your faithful dead back to you—to love and to laugh and to hug and to dance. Body and soul, living and walking in the new heaven and the new earth. How do we know Jesus can and will keep that promise? Because the Son of God descended into the darkness of death himself and emerged on Easter Sunday as the first fruit of the resurrection of all God's people. In the creed we confess, "I believe in the resurrection of the body." Yet again, Jesus satisfies our greatest needs.

Acknowledgements

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HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2-9

Palm Sunday ~ 8:00 & 10:30 AM

Holy Thursday ~ 4:00 & 6:00 PM

Good Friday ~ 12:10 & 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday ~ 7:00 & 9:30 PM

Help Needed for Easter Breakfast

We are once again holding a breakfast between the services on Easter morning. Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, and serving. Donations of food are also needed. Please see the signup sheets on the Ministry Table for ways you can help.

Decorating for Easter

You can help us in two ways to decorate the church for Easter. First, order a live plant that will be displayed at the Easter morning services and that you will be able to take home afterwards. The signup chart is on the Ministry Table, and orders must be placed by next Sunday, April 2. Second, come on Saturday, April 8 at 9:00 am to help decorate the church. The work includes taking down Good Friday window coverings, putting up pew candles, arranging the live plants, and placing other decorations. There are tasks for all talents and abilities.

Sign Up to Receive Holy Week Devotionals

Holy Week devotionals from Martin Luther College begin next Sunday, April 2. This year's devotionals center on Christ's seven words from Calvary. Sign up to receive devotionals in your email daily during Holy Week (April 2-9) or to view the devotionals online, visit mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions.

Easter Sunday Breakfast served 8:00 to 9:30 AM

The Service: Setting One

Setting One begins on page 154 in the hymnal.

Welcome

Hymn

852 *When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love*

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 155

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

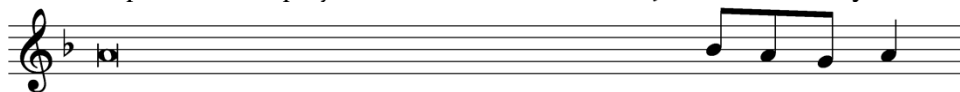
God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy



In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



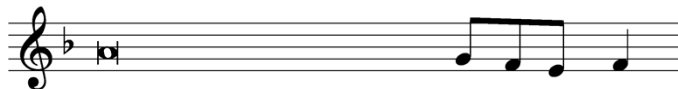
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

During the somber season of Lent, the Gloria and Alleluias are omitted. While our tones of praise are slightly muted during our march to the Savior's cross, we look forward to welcoming back these joyful songs when we celebrate our Lord's resurrection. The service continues with The Word.

10:30 – New Member Reception

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

2 Kings 4:17–37

Through Elisha, God provides proof that those who believe in him will live, even though they die.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 130 (CW 650 From Depths of Woe, Lord God, I Cry)



1 From depths of woe, Lord God, I cry; O hear my
2 What we have done on our best day is flawed from
3 Thus an - y mer - it of my own is void and
4 If it de - lays in - to the night or waits un -
5 Al - though our sin is great in - deed, the grace of



hum - ble plead - ing! Lis - ten in mer - cy to my sigh,
 its be - gin - ning; on - ly your grace can clear a - way
 un - a - vail - ing; I trust in God and God a - lone,
 til to - mor - row, my heart will lean on God's great might,
 God is great - er; no loss we suf - fer can ex - ceed



my prayer for res - cue heed - ing! Were you, O
 the guilt of all our sin - ning. Be - fore you
 he is my hope un - fail - ing. Since he is
 dis - card - ing doubt and sor - row. The Spir - it
 the help of our Cre - a - tor. Our shep - herd



Lord, to fix your gaze on our re - bel - lious,
 pride must dis - ap - pear; each soul must live in
 good, I soon will see the com - fort he has
 of the Lord is near, pro - vid - ing strength to
 good and true is he, who will at last his



sin - ful ways, then who could stand be - fore you?
 rev - 'rent fear, up - on your grace re - ly - ing.
 prom - ised me; I wait for its ar - ri - val.
 per - se - vere; de - pend on God to help you!
 peo - ple free from all their sin and sor - row.

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Second Reading

Romans 8:11–19

The Father provides a promise to his children that they will rise from the dead to become heirs of everlasting glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

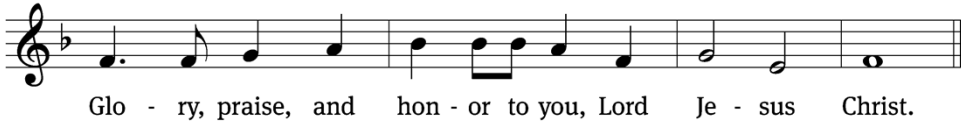
Stand

Gospel Acclamation

John 11:25



Refrain



Pastor sings:

I am the resurrection / and the life.

Those who believe in me will live, even / though they die.

Refrain

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Gospel

John 11:17–27,38–45

Jesus provides emphatic proof that he is the Lord of life.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

723 *When in the Hour of Utmost Need*

Sermon

Believe in Jesus as the Resurrection and the Life

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Be seated

Connect Card

Please take a moment now to fill out a Connect Card.

8:00 – New Member Reception

Prayer of the Church

Lord God, according to your will, you sent your Son into our world to atone for sin and restore eternal life. You planned his path to the cross, and he followed it perfectly. Your Spirit led him to endure the temptations of Satan, but he triumphed. Your own people rejected his message, but he persisted. He confronted the blindness of unbelief, the confusion of doubt, and the hurt of death but was not deterred as he declared your kingdom to the least, the last, and the lost.

Guide us to follow Christ by faith as we walk the road of temptation and trial.

Spare us from falling into Satan's traps, and steel our resolve as his partners confront us. Teach us to use your Word as a weapon to fight against all devilish lies and deceptions.

When we fall—and we surely will—lift us up again with your forgiveness and grace.

As we hear and contemplate the holy record of our Savior's passion and death, use the sharp message of the law to empty us of prideful self-reliance. Humble us as we view the Savior in his humility, remembering in faith that he endured the cross so we might be freed from its horror.

In his suffering show us our healing, in his grief show us our joy, and in his death show us our life.

Give wisdom and resolve to the leaders of our government that their rule may bring prosperity to our land and peace to our people. Supply insights to those who seek cures and invent things to make our lives on earth better and safer. Inspire creative minds to touch our hearts in ways that reflect your creating love. You desire that we bask in the glory of your redemption.

According to your will, may we also enjoy the wonders of your creation.

Protect all who are bearing the cross of persecution and disdain. Supply your power to those fighting temptations and addictions. Watch over all who are sick and suffering in body, mind, and heart. We pray especially for children who are abused, forsaken, or ignored.

Comfort all your troubled people with the sweet peace that only Jesus can bring.

Special prayers and intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Hear our prayers, Lord, for the sake of Jesus, whose journey to the cross we remember during the days of Lent. Comfort and strengthen us by his life and death on our behalf, and thrill us as we look forward to celebrating his victory on Easter.

Amen.

Special Prayers This Week

- † Melody Kieliszewski is recovering after a successful hip replacement surgery.
- † Todd Hansen is going through chemo treatments for cancer.
- † Jeff Tuttle is starting treatment for cancer.
- † Sara Batzer needs prayer regarding an upcoming doctor's appointment.
- † We called Mr. Andrew Van Weele to serve as our principal and Mrs. Debbie Hansen to serve as our 1st-2nd grade teacher.

†
†
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Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



Musical Offering

Hymn

831 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Hymn

502 Children of the Heavenly Father



Take Home Questions

1. Read all of John 11 and John 12:9-11. As you read, write down:
 - a. Something from this account that is new information for you.
 - b. Something from this account that you can sympathize with.
 - c. Something from this account that comforts you.
 - d. Something from this account that you have a question about.
2. Romans 8:18 says, “For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.” What makes these words difficult to believe? What makes these words a joy to believe?
3. Leading into the reading from 2 Kings 4, Elisha had promised this woman a son in return for her kind hospitality to him. After the boy died, you can hear her go through some of the “Five Stages of Grief” (Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, Acceptance). Read through how the woman responds to death and see if you can identify a stage of grief with each response. You won’t necessarily use all five stages.
 - a. Then, relate her experience to your own life. Even in our grieving over the death of loved ones (both young and old), what does 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 promise us?
4. Verse three of our closing hymn (Children of the Heavenly Father) reads, “Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever; unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.” Where in our readings—particularly in John 11—do you see those words come true?

News & Announcements



This Sunday's Bible Study: Jonah: The Grumpiest Missionary

Join us in the cafeteria from 9:15 to 10:15 AM.
For the Google Meet link, contact Pastor Proeber.

Teacher & Principal Called

On Tuesday, we called Mr. Andrew Van Weele to serve as our principal. Mr. Van Weele is single and currently serves Life Lutheran School in Friendswood, TX as principal and academic dean. We also called Mrs. Debbie Hansen to serve as our 1st-2nd grade teacher. Mrs. Hansen currently serves Salem Lutheran School in Stillwater, MN as their 1st grade teacher. She and her husband have two children. Please keep Mr. Van Weele and Mrs. Hansen in your prayers as they go through the deliberation process. If you would like to contact them, that information is in your church mailslot.

Book Fair Wraps Up Next Sunday

If you have been waffling about which book(s) to order from the NPH Book Fair, now is the time to make a decision. Choose from a large selection of books for men, women, teen, and children. There are biographies, devotionals, and books a specific topics. The last day to place an order is next Sunday, April 2.

New Moms Group at St. Paul's

April 15 | 10:00 AM

St. Paul's Moms Group will be meeting for the first time on Saturday, April 15 at 10:00 am in room 1102. Come hear a devotion and meet some great moms who have children from infant-preschool age. See what we are all about including information on our meetings and the other monthly activities we have planned for 2023. Kids are welcome at this meeting. If you are unable to come to this meeting, but you are interested in future meetings, please contact Carole Melso (cmelso@stpaulswr.org) or Kellie Jensen (kjensen@stpaulswr.org) or call 715-421-3634 ext. 119 to be added to the contact list.

3K Open House

April 18 | 4:30-6:00 PM

Learn more about St. Paul's 3-year-old kindergarten during an open house on Tuesday, April 18 from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Tour the facility, visit the classroom, meet the teachers, and ask questions. Cookies and refreshments will served. Hope to see you there.



Help Still Needed For Before School Care

With Mrs. Proeber going on maternity leave soon, we are in need of someone to help in with before school care – 7:00-8:30 am on school days. This is a paid position or you can volunteer. If you are able to help in this way, please contact Mrs. Carole Melso at cmelso@stpaulswr.org or 715-421-3634 ext. 1119.



Children’s Theater at Northland

This week, students at Northland Lutheran High School will present *Bedtime Stories (As Told by Our Dad) (Who Messed Them Up)*! It's Dad's turn to tell the bedtime stories, but he gets fuzzy on the details. A prince with a snoring problem spices up *The Princess and The Pea*, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf* cries dinosaur instead, and *Rumpelstiltskin* helps turn all that pesky gold into straw. There are two performances for the general public: Friday, March 31 at 7:00 pm, and Saturday, April 1 at 3:00 pm. Because of limited space, please reserve your seat at NLHS.org. Tickets are \$5 each.

Pray for Malawi

Earlier this month, floods caused by a cyclone swept away entire villages in Malawi, Mozambique, and Madagascar. More than 500 people were killed, hundreds are still missing, and more than 300,000 people have been displaced. The storm also inundated farmlands and destroyed crops increasing the food crisis in Malawi. We await hearing how the storm affected the congregations and members of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa–Malawi. There is no doubt that our sister church body has been impacted. WELS Christian Aid and Relief is ready to provide assistance in whatever way it can. If you would like to help in this effort with a financial gift, you can do so by making a gift online at WELS.net. Please keep our brothers and sisters in Malawi in your prayers.

Builders for Christ

With warmer weather come construction. Builder for Christ will be working on two school expansion projects this spring and summer. The first is at Peace Lutheran Church and School in Hartford, WI beginning April 18. The second is at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School in Hutchinson, MN beginning June 13. Each phase of the project requires different skills and numbers of volunteers, so if you’ve never lifted a hammer, you can still volunteer! Experienced volunteers happily provide on-the-job training to those who need it. Work weeks are Tuesday-Saturday. Give an hour, a day, or a week and see what can happen when believers come together to serve others. Learn more at KingdomWorkers.com.

“I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies.
And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish. Do you believe this?”

John 11:25-26

- Sunday** 8:00 AM Worship
 9:15 AM Bible Study in the cafeteria
 9:15 AM Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
 9:15 AM Sunday School for 3K thru 6th grade
 10:30 AM Worship
 2:00 PM Coed Volleyball in the gym
- Monday** 4:30 PM Choir Practice in the balcony
- Tuesday** 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
 9:45 AM Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
 6:30 PM Stephen Ministers Peer Group in the Resource Center
- Wednesday** 4:00 PM **Midweek Lenten Service**
 4:45 PM **Fellowship Meal in the cafeteria**
 6:00 PM **Midweek Lenten Service**
- Thursday** 7:00 AM Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
- Sunday** 8:00 AM **Palm Sunday Worship**
 9:15 AM Bible Study in the cafeteria
 9:15 AM Catechism Class in the Bible Study Room
 9:15 AM Sunday School for 3K thru 6th grade
 10:30 AM **Palm Sunday Worship**
 2:00 PM Coed Volleyball in the gym

Attendance & Offering Report

Last Week's Attendance: 205
 Anticipated offerings YTD: \$ 794,432
 Actual offerings YTD: \$ 533,286

Upcoming Events

- April 8 ~ Decorating for Easter
- April 15 ~ St. Paul's Moms Group
- April 15 ~ LWMS Mission Rally in Stratford
- April 17 ~ Quarterly Voters' Meeting
- April 18 ~ 3K Open House

THE DEADLINE TO ORDER
 EASTER FLOWERS IS
 SUNDAY, APRIL 2



Ordering information
 is on the Ministry Table.
 Your flower will be displayed
 in church for the Easter Services.
 Then they are your to take home.



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Pastor Lucas Proeber | 989-780-3184 | pastorproeber@stpaulswr.org
Pastor Peter Plagenz | 920-689-3036 | pastorplagenz@stpaulswr.org